

STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program • One Capitol Hill • Providence, RI 02908 • 401.222.7901 • fax 401.222.2083 • www.planning.ri.gov/spp/

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Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Survey

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is reviewing the effectiveness of its communications processes and products. Your views and thoughts about their current practices are important to them. By completing this survey, which can be completed in about five minutes, you can help them to serve you better.

Please complete the survey by September 30. Your responses and comments will be anonymous. [Click here to begin survey.](#)

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FFY 2013-2016

The State Planning Council is developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) proposal application forms must be received by the R.I. Statewide Planning Program; One Capitol Hill; 3rd Floor; Providence, RI 02908 no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 28, 2011. The TIP is a multi-year program of Bicycle / Pedestrian, Bridge, Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ), Enhancement, Highway, Interstate, Major Projects, Pavement Management, Planning, Study and Development, Traffic Safety, Transit, Administration, and Earmark projects that are eligible to receive federal funding. Any municipality, organization, or individual may submit project proposals.

Project proposal application forms and other information are available on the Statewide Planning Program's website, www.planning.ri.gov/misc/TIP2013.htm or can be made available upon request by contacting the Statewide Planning Program at 222-7901.

Workshops have been scheduled to provide general information regarding proposal submission instructions for the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2013-2016. The workshops are **Monday, October 3** at 9:00 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. at the RI Department of Administration, Conference Room A, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill; Providence.

Project proposal application forms must be received by the R.I. Statewide Planning Program, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor; Providence, RI 02908 no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 28, 2011.

All project proposals must be presented at one of four public hearings listed below. Public hearings have been scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations to accept proposals and comments regarding the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2013-2016:

Monday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Kingstown Town Hall, 180 High Street, Wakefield.

Tuesday, November 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the RI Department of Administration, Conference Room A, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill; Providence.

Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Corridor Commission Office, One Depot Square, Woonsocket.

Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown.

All hearing locations are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals requesting assistance should contact Ms. Dawn Vittoriosso at 222-7901 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled start of a hearing. Public transit schedule information for hearing locations is available from RIPTA at (401) 781-9400 or www.ripta.com.

2011 Planning Challenge Grants

Statewide Planning Challenge Grants

There is a total of approximately \$1,000,000 available in FY 2012 for project grant awards in amounts up to \$100,000. Multi-community corridor studies may be higher. Unless otherwise noted in the RFP, each grantee will be required to provide a match share totaling 20% of the total project cost.

Planning Challenge Grants are administered by the Statewide Planning Program and are funded with Federal Highway Administration Metropolitan Planning funds received by the State of Rhode Island and allocated to the Statewide Planning Program in its role as staff to State Planning Council, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Rhode Island. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funding for statewide, regional, and local planning studies leading to the implementation of the State Guide Plan, particularly Land Use 2025 and Transportation 2030.

The State Guide Plan is Rhode Island's long-range planning document. It comprises many separately published elements covering a range of topics including transportation, land use, outdoor recreation, water supply, and historic preservation. Two of the most recently updated elements are Land Use 2025 (2006) and Transportation 2030 (2008). These elements envision a Rhode Island with walkable, mixed-use growth centers complimented by a first class transportation infrastructure and a connected greenspace network.

In addition, projects that specifically address improving the quality or increasing the availability of affordable homes may be eligible for additional funding under Rhode Island Housing's Targeted Assistance Grant Program. This additional grant award, not to exceed \$10,000, may be used to satisfy the match requirement outlined above.

Applications for funding will be accepted on a competitive basis within the limits of available funds. The submission deadline is November 10, 2011. The Request for Proposals and Frequently Asked Questions sheet can be found at www.planning.state.ri.us/misc/pcgrants.htm.

Any questions should be directed to Karen Scott, Assistant Chief of the Statewide Planning Program at 222-4411 or Karen.Scott@doa.ri.gov.

American Planning Association

Southern New England Planning Conference

The 2011 Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA) Conference will be held on October 20-21 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Discover Providence and reconnect with colleagues.

The SNEAPA Conference, themed "Innovative Planning in the New Economy," provides information and resources for public and private sector planning professionals, educators, citizens, business leaders, planning commissioners and elected officials. Over 35 conference sessions address the information communities need today and for planning for tomorrow. Four mobile workshops will take attendees out into the city and the region to experience planning in action.

The conference is typically attended by over 500 public, private and non-profit planning professionals and students as well as professionals in the fields of architecture/urban design, landscape architecture, real estate development, economic development, housing, engineering, transportation, public outreach, energy and sustainability. For more information and to register, visit www.sneapa.org

Statewide Planning Committee Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting

Scheduled for October 14 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

State Planning Council Meeting

Scheduled for October 20 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Scheduled for October 27 at 6:30 p.m., meeting location to be determined. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

Office of Training and Development

Fall Course Schedule

The Office of Training and Development schedule of classes for fall 2011 is available at www.admin.ri.gov/otd/ and includes classes on Microsoft Access, Excel PowerPoint and Word. Check the website for classes, times, and registration information. Please contact Melissa Day at 222-2178 or at mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us if you have any questions, or have any suggestions for future course offerings.

Northeast Private Well Symposium

University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension water quality advisors and several partner organizations throughout the Northeast are coordinating the 2011 Northeast Private Well Symposium, which will take place November 14 and 15 in Southbury, CT. This event provides a forum in which researchers, government officials, water professionals, and anyone interested in water quality can discuss current issues and set priorities for future work.

Presentation topics at this year's symposium will include: *Impact of Hydrofracturing on Groundwater*; *Testing Private Well Water and Interpreting Results*; *Public Health and Regulation of Private Wells*; *Groundwater Quality Issues in New England*; and *Arsenic and Manganese in Drinking Water*.

For more information or to register, visit www.usawaterquality.org/nesci/symposium2011/ or contact Alyson McCann at alyson@uri.edu or at 874-5398.

Division of Municipal Finance

Municipal Memo: This Legislative Reference Service can be found at www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation. Both current and past issues are available at this site.

Directory of City & Town Officials: This 2011 directory, and updates as of July 25, is available at www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications. Paper copies of the directory are also available; please contact Susan Moss at Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov or at 222-4468 for specifics.

University of Rhode Island Lectures

Landscape Architecture Lectures 2011 – 2012

The University of Rhode Island 2011—2012 Landscape Architecture Lectures series begins its new season on October 6 at 7:00 p.m. with David Lustberg who will discuss “Streets as Open Spaces”. All lectures, with the exception of the October 27 lecture, are held in the Weaver Auditorium on the Kingston Campus of the University of Rhode Island. This series is co-sponsored by the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association. All lectures are free and open to the public. The lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to 874-2983 or to Deb Hughes Dmhughes@ds.uri.edu.

- October 6 - David Lustberg, ASLA, Principal, Arterial, Montclair, NJ. *Streets as Public Spaces: The Role Landscape Architecture Plays In the Design of Our Streets*.
- October 27 - Graham Young, URI Distinguished International Visiting Scholar, Senior Lecturer, University of Pretoria, South Africa. *Transforming Urban Open Space: The Development of Parks in Soweto With a Focus on the Sustainable Integration of Water Systems and the Role Community Factors Play in the Planning and Design of Parks*. ** NOTE ** This lecture will be held in the Kingston Campus CBLS Building.
- November 17 - Terri Hahn, ASLA, Principal, L.A.D.A., Simsbury, CT.
- December 1 - Keith LeBlanc, Principal, Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, Boston, MA. *Site Responses for Residential Design*.
- February 23 - Catherine Weaver, Principal, Tupelo Gardenworks, Wakefield, RI. *Challenges From the Field*.
- March 8 - Marc Miller, Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. *Prototyping Topography: Landscape, 3d Printing and Practice*.
- March 22 - Calvin Ahbe, Principal, Ahbe Landscape Architects, Culver City, CA. March 22.
- April 19 TBA.

Managing Farmland and Leasing to Farmers

A Workshop for Land Trusts & Municipalities

Does your land trust or municipality own farmland? If YES, this workshop is for you! There will be discussions on: Issues and Challenges You Face Managing Your Farmland; Considerations and Benefits of Leasing Your Land to a Farmer; “How To’s” if you decide to lease your farmland to a farmer; Funding and technical assistance to help you with stewardship of your farmland and to improve its suitability for agricultural production.

The workshop will be Thursday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the RCS Conference Room; Quaker Lane; West Warwick. There is no cost, however preregistration is required. For information or to register please contact Rupert Friday at 932-4667 or at rfriday@rilandtrusts.org; (please include “farmland workshop” in your subject line). This workshop is sponsored by the RI Land Trust Council, the Land for Good, and NRCS.

Farmland conservation in RI is critical: Rhode Island has lost over 80% of our farmland since 1940 and ranks number 1 in the nation for farmland lost to development between 1982 and 2007. The state only has 40,000 acres of farmland left in production. Only ¼ of that is protected so that it will not be developed. The remaining ¾ of our farmland is very vulnerable because Rhode Island’s farmland values are the highest in the nation and we have an aging population of farmers. Even though most farmers treasure their farms and would like them to remain in agriculture when they retire, only one third report having succession/transition plans for their farms.

Farmers are looking for land where they can grow food. At the same time the state is losing farmland, there is a growing interest in agriculture and increasing demand for fresh, locally-grown foods, and strong interest in improving our food security and sustainability. There are many new farmers looking for land to farm in Rhode Island. Many established farmers are looking for land where they can expand their operations. Yet, new farmers and those who want to expand their operations have difficulty finding land to farm in Rhode Island.

Land trusts and municipalities play critical roles in protecting our remaining farmland and keeping it in production. Farmland that your municipality/land trust owns is important to the sustainability of agriculture in your community and helping to grow our agriculture economy and the supply of fresh locally grown food.

You can reduce your stewardship costs while you help grow the economy: This workshop will help you manage farmland that your municipality/land trust owns, show you how to reduce your organization’s stewardship costs while improving stewardship of the land you own, improving the local economy and increasing the availability of fresh produce in your community.

Grow Smart Rhode Island Land-Use Training Collaborative / Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Electronic Calendar

This calendar is available for use by elected and appointed municipal officials and planners, citizen advocates, the natural resource protection community and the design and development community. The calendar can be found on the web at

www.communityconnectionri.org.

Please see the GrowSmart web page at [www.growsmartri.org/index.cfm?](http://www.growsmartri.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=489)

[fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=489](http://www.growsmartri.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=489) for information about listing a workshop or conference.

RIGIS Upcoming Event Calendar

The RIGIS (Rhode Island Geographic Information System) home page has an event calendar on the right hand side listing upcoming GIS programs and events. The calendar can be enlarged by clicking the ‘Event Calendar’ link at the top of the calendar. Basic information on the programs and event is displayed; clicking the basic information will open a new screen with additional information.

If you are interested in having an event added to this calendar, please submit the event details to [RIGIS Coordinator Shane White](#) for consideration.

RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund 2011-2012

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council is currently seeking pre-proposals for habitat restoration project funding through its RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund. The program is administered by the CRMC with technical support from the R.I. Habitat Restoration Team.

Municipalities, committees, boards or commissions chartered by a municipality, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, educational institutions, and state agencies are eligible to submit a project pre-proposal. Proposed projects must be located within Rhode Island. There is no specific match requirement for proposed projects; however, proposals that can demonstrate matching funds or in-kind services will have an advantage in the selection process. Applicants are therefore encouraged to detail all federal and non-federal resources contributing toward completion of the project, whether cash or in-kind.

Funding for projects is from an annual account totaling \$225,000. The Trust Fund allocates these monies from fees collected under the Oil Spill Response and Prevention Act (OSPAR) to potential habitat restoration projects. The Habitat Restoration Team Technical Advisory committee, formed in 1998 through the collaborative efforts of the CRMC; DEM; and Save the Bay, recommends projects to the Council for funding. Individual project awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year. Longer-term projects may reapply for additional funds in subsequent years.

Project pre-proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on November 18. To submit a pre-proposal, please download a pre-proposal form at www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html, fill out the form and submit it to Caitlin Chaffee, Coastal Policy Analyst; R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council; Stedman Government Center, Suite 116; 4808 Tower Hill Road; Wakefield, RI 02879. For more detailed information about the Fund and previously funded projects, go to the CRMC web site www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html. For questions regarding the Fund or pre-application requirements, please contact Caitlin at cchaffee@crm.ri.gov or at 783-3370.

Economic Development Investment Assistance

The Office of Strategic Planning & Economic Development is seeking proposals for projects from eligible applicants interested in applying to the federal Economic Development Administration for public works or planning grants in Fiscal Year 2012. This is an opportunity to submit proposals for projects using federal funds to implement some of the state's long-range economic development objectives and policies on the local and regional level. Project proposals will undergo a selection process. Selected projects that meet federal and state criteria will become part of a "Priority Project List" that will be presented to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This will qualify these projects to compete for grants under the EDA's Public Works and Development Facilities Program. Applications are received on an ongoing basis but must be received no less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal quarter in which the applicant intends to apply for funds.

Potentially eligible CEDS applicants include cities and towns, public agencies, academic institutions, and local and regional non-profit economic development organizations. They can contact via email [Robert Griffith](mailto:Robert.Griffith@ceds.org) if they are interested submitting a proposal and/or if they are interested in receiving application instructions and materials..

Roger Williams National Memorial *Inspired Providence* Lecture Series

Roger Williams National Memorial and their community partners have announced the *Inspired Providence* lecture series that takes a bold look at the city's rich cultural history from Roger Williams' "lively experiment" in 1636 to the rise of a Creative Capital.

This fall, seven nights of civic discourse and lively debate will take place at cultural institutions across Rhode Island. Join them as they explore the events, individuals, and beliefs that have inspired Providence both past and present.

On Thursday, September 29th at 6 p.m. the kick-off event will be held at the Roger Williams National Memorial as park ranger and local historian John McNiff revisits 375 years of Interpretation and transformation at the memorial site.

All events begin at 6 p.m., are free, and open to the public. For a download of the full schedule please click [here](#).

WTS-Rhode Island

Sakonnet River Bridge Construction Tour

Please join WTS-Rhode Island for a tour of the Sakonnet River Bridge project on Wednesday, October 19 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tour will begin with lunch and a presentation by representatives from the RIDOT Construction Section, followed by site visit. To register for this event please contact Christine Palmer at 401-273-6000 or at cpalmer@garofaloassociates.com by 4:00 p.m., October 14.